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Agenda item 41 (a)
Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

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Note by the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit to the General Assembly, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/218 of 21 December 2001, the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/218 of 21 December 2001, the General Assembly decided to establish an ad hoc committee of the whole of the General Assembly to conduct the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and related initiatives. The General Assembly also decided to convene an organizational session of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole in June 2002 for one working day in order to consider and adopt the necessary arrangements for its work. It also decided that the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole should meet in substantive session for a period of five working days, from 9 to 13 September 2002, and for three working days, from 7 to 9 October 2002, during its fifty-seventh session.

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II. Organizational matters

A. Dates of the substantive session

2. At the organizational session, on 14 June 2002, given the fact that the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly was due to open on 10 September 2002, it was suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole should meet in substantive session for three working days, from 24 to 26 September 2002, and for five working days, from 7 to 11 October 2002. This proposal was later adopted by the General Assembly, in its resolution 56/508 of 27 June 2002.

B. Officers

3. At the same meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:
Jan **Kavan** (Czech Republic)

Vice-Chairmen:
Jean **de Ruyt** (Belgium)
Vijay K. **Nambiar** (India)
Dumisani Shadrack **Kumalo** (South Africa)

Rapporteur:
Marcel Fortuna **Biato** (Brazil)

C. Opening and the duration of the substantive session

4. The Ad Hoc Committee held its substantive session at United Nations Headquarters from 24 to 26 September 2002 and from 7 to 11 October 2002. In the course of its session, the Ad Hoc Committee held 10 plenary meetings, including 2 meetings for panel discussions.

5. The Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs acted as the substantive secretariat, while the Disarmament and Decolonization Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management provided management support to the Ad Hoc Committee.

6. The substantive session of the Ad Hoc Committee was chaired by the President of the General Assembly, Jan Kavan (Czech Republic), who made a statement.

D. Agenda

7. At the 1st meeting of its substantive session, on 24 September 2002, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted its provisional agenda (A/AC.251/10), as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Presentation of the report of the independent evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

4. Interactive discussions.

5. Presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

6. Oral summary of the informal panel discussions.

7. General debate.

8. Consideration of draft resolution.

9. Adoption of the draft resolution.

10. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

11. Other business and closing of the meeting.

E. Documentation

8. The Ad Hoc Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Provisional agenda (A/AC.251/6);

(b) Organization of work for the substantive session (A/AC.251/7);

(c) Independent evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: executive summary (A/AC.251/8);

(d) Independent evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (A/AC.251/9);

(e) Agenda (A/AC.251/10);

(f) Participation of observer States, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations (A/AC.251/CRP.1);

(g) African Union assessment of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (A/AC.251/CRP.2).

III. Organization of work

9. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 24 September 2002, the Ad Hoc Committee held panel discussions and an interactive dialogue on the independent evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, with the participation of the group of eminent personalities. The panel discussions were moderated by the Vice-Chairman, Jean de Ruyt (Belgium). Kwesi Botchwey (Ghana), Alexander Love (United States of America), Dennis Benn (Jamaica), Valery Mongbe (Benin) and Yves Berthelot (France) made presentations on major findings, lessons learned and the way forward for international support for Africa.

10. At its 3rd meeting, on 25 September, the Committee heard two presentations: the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jean de Ruyt, presented an oral summary of the panel discussions and follow-up interactive dialogue; and Yvette Stevens, Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, introduced the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/156).

11. In connection with the presentation of the oral summary of the interactive dialogue and the report of the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Jan Kavan, made a statement.

12. During the general debate, which was held on 25 and 26 September 2002, the representatives of the following countries made statements: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as Norway), Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Grenada, India, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, United States of America and Zambia.

13. General statements were also made by representatives of the following organizations and specialized agencies: the African Union, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the World Bank, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Economic Commission for Africa.

14. The representative of the Network Movement for Justice and Development of Sierra Leone made a statement on behalf of the community of non-governmental organizations.

IV. Decisions

A. Decision adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee

15. At its 1st meeting, on 24 September, the Committee considered and adopted decision I, entitled "Modalities of participation of accredited non-governmental organizations in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole in charge of the final review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s", as follows:

> The Ad Hoc Committee decides:
>
> 1. To grant participation to the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and other non-governmental organizations that have been contributing to the implementation of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in conformity with established rules and accepted practices.

2. That representatives of these organizations will be allowed:

(a) To participate in any open meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee;

(b) To make statements at the plenary meetings, given the availability of time, in accordance with current United Nations practice;

(c) To receive copies of official documents and make written or other presentations. Written presentations shall not be issued as official documents except in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31. Furthermore, the non-governmental organizations' report, entitled "African civil society organizations and development: re-evaluating for the twenty-first century", will be considered as an additional background document and will be made available to delegations in accessible areas designated by the Secretariat.

3. That the above modalities shall in no way create a precedent for other ad hoc committees of the General Assembly.

16. The following nine non-governmental organizations were granted accreditation with the Ad Hoc Committee: Femme Afrique Solidarité; Trickle Up Program Inc; Partnership Africa Canada; Network Movement for Justice and Development; Country Women Association of Nigeria (COWAN); Coalition des familles dans la lutte contre VIH/SIDA et la lutte contre la pauvreté; Groupement d'initiative des paysannes de Bogso; Pride Africa microfinance; World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA).

B. Draft decision recommended for adoption by the General Assembly

17. At its 10th meeting, on 11 October, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to request the General Assembly to authorize the Committee to hold an additional meeting (see para. 18 below).

V. Recommendations

18. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

One additional meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

The General Assembly authorizes the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s to hold one additional meeting, subject to availability of services, on an exceptional basis, in order to complete the work of the Committee.

19. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[The text of the draft resolution will appear in Part II of the report.]

VI. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee

20. At the 10th meeting, on 11 October, the Rapporteur, Marcel Fortuna Biato (Brazil), introduced the draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.251/L.3).

21. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (A/AC.251/L.3), as orally amended.